

## HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine Updated: February, 2003

**DEER CREEK TRAIL #678** 

**Use:** Light

**Difficulty:** Most difficult

**USGS Map (s):** Engineer Mountain

**Starting Elevation:** 9,800'

U.S. Highway 550

Ending Elevation: 11,200' Junction with Coal Creek

## **Recommended Season:**

Spring/Summer/Fall

## **Recommended Season**

Length: 4.5 miles (7.2 km)

Spring Summer Fall Winter

12000					_
11000					
10000					
9000					
8000					
7500					
7000					
Feet	1	2	3	4	5
Miles					



Access: #1: About 38 miles north of Durango on US 550, drive into the hairpin turn and over Deer Creek; continue about 1/8 of a mile to the dirt pulloff on the south side of the road. The trailhead is on the north side of the road.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map
Forest Service maps and other publications are available at the
Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of
Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874.
www.sjma.org

Attractions & Considerations: Deer Creek has some excellent views of the West Needle Mountains, along with moderate hiking and good access to other trails. This trail is usually just a day hike, but can be combined with other trails such as the Coal Creek and Engineer Mountain Trails for an overnighter. The trail ascends through some aspens, and then switchbacks up a gully right above a small limestone cliff band. The trail continues through some meadows parallel to Deer Creek, turns south at a small trail sign, goes through spruce-fir, and connects to the Coal Creek Trail. The other option would be to keep going straight up the valley/bowl to the Engineer Mountain Trail. Filter all water, due to possible problems with Giardia.